

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the present application.

The Examiner has required election in the present application between:

Group I, claim 1, drawn to a Streptococcus sp. Strain having specific properties;

Group II, claims 2-5, drawn to a method for purifying hyaluronic acid and a product of hyaluronic acid produced by the method; and

Group III, claims 6-10, drawn to a method for purifying hyaluronic acid.

**For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, Claim 1.**

**It is the Applicants' position that since the method of Group II is characterized by using the novel Streptococcus sp. Strain as set forth in claim 1 of Group I it is believed that Groups I and II should be considered to have the same technical features which define a single invention. Accordingly, reconsideration of the requirement for restriction is respectfully requested with respect to Groups I and II.**

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Joseph A. Kolasch, Registration No. 22,463 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: February 14, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Joseph A. Kolasch

Registration No.: 22,463

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant